

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action entered on June, 16, 2006. The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, and 9-17 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,504,830 issued to Boehme (Boehme). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,685,351 issued to Chen (Chen) in combination with U.S. Patent 6,499,191 issued to Howie, Jr. (Howie). Furthermore, claims 1-2 and 9-12 were also rejected as anticipated by Chen. Claims 1, 7, and 9 are hereby amended. Reconsideration and reexamination in view of the present amendments and the arguments submitted below is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant amends the present independent claims to recite that the material “transforms when pressed into said insertion hole.” For example, Fig. 6 shows that the material 17 which originally had a uniform cross section, has changed its shape as a result of being pressed into the insertion hole. More specifically, portion 17c of the material has become compressed.

Boehme does not disclose any material that “transforms when pressed into said insertion hole.” The material of Boehme is rigid and it retains the same shape whether it has been placed in the insertion hole or not.

Regarding Chen, the Examiner states that since Chen does not disclose how its light guides are held, then it is inherently disclosed that they are held in frictionally. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Securing elements frictionally is very unusual in the art of producing computer cases, because elements that are only held frictionally are very likely to be dislodged when the computer case is moved. Thus, if a person of skill in the art examines Chen, he/she would not consider that it inherently discloses light guides which are frictionally held. Instead the person of skill in the art will probably determine that the light guides are held in by glue.

Furthermore, Chen fails to disclose the newly added features of the independent claims. More specifically, Chen fails to disclose that the light guides are transformed as a result of being placed in the insertion hole. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over Chen.

With regard to claims 7 and 8 the Examiner stated that claim 7 is obvious in view of Chen and Howie, because Howie discloses the step of cutting for producing a light guide, and thus may be combined with Chen to invalidate claim 7. Applicant respectfully disagrees. While Howie does disclose cutting, the cutting feature of Howie may not be combined with Chen, because the light guides of Chen cannot be practically formed by cutting. More specifically, the light guides of Chen feature convex and concave ends which cannot be practically formed by cutting (and are therefore formed by molding). Therefore, Chen and Howie cannot be combined to invalidate independent claim 7.

Furthermore, independent claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Chen and Howie, because neither discloses a step of pressing the light guide into the insertion hole so that the light guide transforms, as recited by claim 7. Neither Chen nor Howie disclose a light guide that transforms as a result of being pressed into an insertion hole.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5790 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket No. 393032040900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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